working in vain when they work for "a gradual diminution of the military burdens." Onthe contrary, when the distress of these burdens is greatest, the sort of God who alone can help here will be nearest. The tree of military glory can only be destroyed at one swoop, with one stroke of lightning. But, as you know, lightning comes from the cloud and from above.

285.

WHETHER PROPERTY CAN BE SQUARED WITH JUSTICE.—When the injustice of property is stron gly felt (and the hand of the great clock Is once more at this place), we formulate two methods of relieving this injustice: either an equal distribution, or an abolition of private possession and a return to State ownership. The latter method Is especially dear to the hearts of our Socialists, who are angry with that primitive Jew for saying, " Thou shalt not steal." In their view the eighth* commandment should rather run, " Thou shalt not possess."—The former method was frequently tried in antiquity, always indeed on a small scale, and yet with poor success. From this failure we too may learn. " Equal plots of land" is easily enough said, but how much bitterness is aroused by the necessary division and separation, by the loss of time-honoured possessions, how much piety Is wounded and sacrificed! We uproot the foundation of morality when we uproot boundary-stones. Again, how much fresh bitterness among the new owners, how much envy and looking askance! For there have never been two

* The original, by a curious slip, has "seventh."—TR.